

**TIME TO
DEAL
WITH
SPIRITUAL
"AIDS"**

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**TREASURES NEW AND OLD
MATTHEW 13:52**

TIME TO DEAL WITH SPIRITUAL "AIDS"!

Spiritual AIDS, Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, is often discovered only years after infection, as is physical AIDS. It too is acquired by indulging in unfaithfulness, in this case, unfaithfulness toward our potential Husband, Jesus Christ, and His Word for man's well-being. It also makes it difficult to impossible to counteract even minor invasions by damaging agents. Demons delight more in human spiritual AIDS than in physical AIDS.

The Satanic objective in our time is the subjugation of Christendom and the enslavement of all nations under his political-military, antiChrist and antiGod rule. (Isa. 14:12-13, Dan. 11:35-38) The goals proclaimed by the communists confirm these objectives. The past 60 years of Soviet history have been single-mindedly utilized specifically toward such control. What is the timing for Satan's and the Kremlin's final move? Knowledge of timing can provide unparalleled motivation, as every child knows when facing his father with switch in hand. Even cursory examination of Christendom reveals great need of Christian motivation.

Is this timing information in your Bible? There are revealing statements and promises of God recorded in Hos. 12:10, Gen. 18:17 and Zech. 7:7. God plays no favorites! History confirms there having been no major event for or against the Chosen People, none, which has not been previously noted by the Lord so they would have time to prepare and benefit. We in Christendom are the replacement for ancient Israel, and inheritors of what God promises to those He has called. The Jews should have known, quite a few did know, exactly when and where God in human flesh would appear, teach, be rejected and crucified. Christians, for a long time, could have known at least approximately when the Lord should return to begin His new and strange work. A few do. So can others, if they don't; but no one will learn this from traditional teaching, or from books such as "The Late Great Planet Earth"!

God works mathematically. Out of Egypt, the

Israelites had 40 years of testing and proving. From Christ's ministry, there were 40 years of opportunity for the Jewish nation to repent or prove it would not. There had been a full 70 years of opportunity to prepare for and enter its new assignment, if it would. That nation did not. On Passover, Jerusalem and the then Israel were destroyed - on a day the Lord had promised absolute protection, as long as they remained faithful within His plan.

Matt. 24:35-36 - "The day sky and earth would pass away", is noted again in Rev. 21:1. By context, it is to be at least 7000 years beyond the end of this age in which Christ will return. So why has the Church applied this statement to the Lord's return? "Sky and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away, but of that day and hour no one knows, ..." Much Scripture confirms that He returns to an inhabited earth with atmosphere to set up a Kingdom, not to an empty locale in space from which earth has passed away and there is no air to breath. (Matt. 24:40-41) The Matt. 25 virgins knew when the Bridegroom would approach!

Ezek. 4 - The drama commanded of Ezekiel pictures a re-awakening of spiritual Israel (Christendom). Food was to be restricted for 430 days. A day is a year to the Lord. (Ezek. 4:6) In 1555, a widespread turning to Faith was established; it was a re-awakening of spiritual Israel in Protestantism. The 1555 Peace of Augsburg legalized the new faith, but only in Germany and only for those accepting the Augsburg Confession. Implementation was in 1556. In 1559, the Pope reversed papal policy toward reforms sought by many Catholics and former Catholics. His action started a new cycle of man's control (Egypt) in the religious world. In England, in 1559, the Act of (religious) Uniformity was imposed on clergy and laity alike - a parallel in the new cycle for control in the same year. Since that time, the undefiled spiritual bread has been little and sparse. (Now compare with Jhn. 14:12) In time, even many Christians have starved to death. 430 years added to 1559 complete in 1989, to end the cycle of control and initiate a time of unrestricted

Truth through the Glorious Church. That Church will be progressively built upon the few receiving the Holy Spirit's Great Outpouring 430 years after the 1556 new start.

Dan. 4 - Nebuchadnezzar was called the head of the Gentiles. Beginning in about 572 B.C., he experienced 7 years of madness. Seven 360 day, prophetic years contain 2520 days. If we call these days years (Ezek. 4:6), the 2520 years beyond 572 B.C. reach two important dates, in 1948 and 1949 A.D. In 1948, modern Israel was born - freed from Gentiles and their madness toward Jews in their lands. In 1949, they obtained peace agreements with Arab nations, except Iraq - another freedom from madness. Seven 365 day years contains 2556.75 days. These (in years) added to 572 B.C. bring us to fall 1985 into spring 1986 - freedom from world oppression for some Gentiles, the Firstfruits. To the Jews, then to the Gentiles is the pattern.

Another madness pattern began among nations of Christendom after World War I Armistice. That cease-fire armistice was signed at 11 a.m. on the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, almost 1919. The value 11 stands for the initiation of a new soul or moral cycle. The end of World War I was the beginning of a general decline in moral values into which the nations of Christendom have been subsequently immersed. Seven years multiplied by the Gentile number of ten and added to 1919 also reaches into 1989 for completion of the Lord's plan for this 2000 year age. Isa. 23:17-18 describes a 70 year weighing of Christian nations (they are typed as Tyre, meaning crumbling Rock). The weighing is of Christian nations - the non-Christian nations require no weighing to determine where they are in God's plan. This 70 year weighing period would therefore conclude in 1989!

Dan. 12:11 - From the time a "continual" is taken away and the abomination which makes desolate is set up, there shall be 1290 days. These 1290 days are not necessarily exactly that many; rounded off numbers are frequently used in the Scripture. In 694 A.D., the Islamic Dome of the Rock, was built

upon the Lord's Temple site. That was the first abomination. The date is variously given as 691 to 694 A.D. An added 1290+ years (a year for a day) would reach into as late as 1986, for beginning a period featuring a variety of plans for destruction of the holy building. If it happens soon, it would certainly initiate a telling Islamic war against and Great Tribulation for Israel. Several such plots have been uncovered and "defused" by the Israeli Government.

Hos. 5:15 - 6:1 - This prophecy is: after two days (2000 years), Christ would come to quicken those who seek Him. Again, we consider use of a round number 2000. These 2000+, 360 day prophetic years would be something over 1972 years. According to Great Pyramid measurements, Christ was born in year 1 A.D. Christ's "two days" of ministry leading to quickening initiated at age 12 in 13.3 A.D., with engagement "in His Father's business." An added 1973 years (the probable two days) complete in 1986 for the quickening of the Pentecost outpouring.

Jonah 3 - Jonah means dove; the dove types the Holy Spirit. When he began his day's journey toward Ninevah, he warned of but 40 days, then destruction! When the Holy Spirit began His "day's" journey in the John the Baptist's ministry of 29 - 30 A.D., it was 40 years (a year for a day) of grace until the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. In 1949, modern Israel was reestablished, preserved and accepted by the world of nations through wonderful arranging of the Lord. He gave her opportunity to repent and come to her true Messiah. Another 40 years of grace would then extend to 1989.

Lk. 22:38 - The Lord said two swords (2 days, 2000 years of dividing off by the Word-Sword) would be enough. He began His Father's business in 13.3 A.D., 13+ years short of the start of the 1000 year "day". His "Day" ends in the fall (1000.7+), so the work of the first sword became 988 years. The second sword's work, being the same value, adds another 988 years, into 1000.7+ A.D., completing in 1989.

Jhn. 4:35 - The Lord said there would be four months until harvest; four months is 4/12 of the

crop cycle. "Four months" of the 6000 year crop cycle for the Adam race is 2000 years. This 2000 years in prophetic years of 360 days becomes 1972+ calendar years. Added to Christ's initiation of work in 13 A.D., we hardly can escape 1986 for His probable taking of the Firstfruits of the crop.

Rev. 6:17 - This text speaks of the Day of the Lord's Wrath in the context of global nuclear war (:12). The "24 hour Day of the Lord" is 42 years (Jhn. 8:12 and 9:4 - age 12 to 33). The first nuclear bomb devastations occurred in 1945. Adding 42 years brings to Dec. 1987 - Jan. 1988 for the initiation of World War III! Hostilities would continue another 21 months into the fall of 1989.

Matt. 24:32-34 - The generation seeing modern Israel established as a recognized nation (the budding of the fig tree) in 1949 shall not pass away until all these things involved in the wind-up of the age take place. A period of 40 years is usually accepted as a generation. The 40 year generation beyond the recognition of modern Israel by treaty runs into 1989, for completion of the age. The 40 would end its testing for fruitfulness.

Matt. 24:29 and Lk. 21:25 - Here, signs in sun and moon are highlighted. We have learned from Scripture that the Lord will do His mighty works to impress man only on dates specifically established in Old Testament dramas, such as the tenth day of Nisan, Passover, Pentecost, and the Festival days of Trumpets, Atonement, and Tabernacles. His Firstfruits go up to meet Him on the 10th of the Jewish month of Nisan; 1260 days of Tribulation later is Trumpets for taking His Harvest Host.

Immediately after The Great Tribulation, the sun will be darkened, the moon will not shed her light and the powers of "ouranos" will be shaken. (This Greek word is spelled almost as is uranium, the substance of nuclear bombs.) We see the obscuring of sun and moon to be by particulate pollution from massive nuclear detonations (Isa. 13:10), but the Lord always warns beforehand. (Amos 3:7) If 1989 features the taking of the Harvest Group and the subsequent 13 -14 days of the Armageddon of all-out

nuclear war, World War III will begin Jan. 9, 1988. Three months earlier, there be a solar eclipse (new moon) in the morning, in Jerusalem, on the Trumpets Festival day. (Isa. 13:10) Two weeks later, there will also be an early morning lunar eclipse (full moon) visible in Jerusalem on the Festival Day of Tabernacles (the Festival of God's Presence). Only one such pattern of both solar and lunar eclipses occurs in the whole century - in 1987!

Although the coincidence of these solar and lunar eclipses at the right time of day, on the proper sacred Festival days, is impelling evidence of the the Lord's warning of a severe judgment, let us take another look at a modern spectacular for discerning the Lord's possible alertings.

Halley's Comet will become visible to the naked eye about Jan. 1, 1986, low in the western sky, and be seen by careful observers. Its swing around the sun has received much publicity, and so is appropriately noted for a warning. It will disappear at the end of January, to be hidden in the sun's glare for over 4 weeks - the end of its approach to the sun! If the end of this age is on Sept. 29-30, 1989, the Festival Day of Trumpets which ends a Christian's preparation for meeting the Lord, note that the period between Feb. 2, 1986 and that end date is 1335 days! Blessed is he who endures without wavering and comes to 1335 days. (Dan. 12:12)

The eighth head of the Soviet Union is now ruling. (Rev. 17:11) Here is a call for wisdom: let anyone who has intelligence calculate the number of the beast, for it is the humanity number - his number is 666! (Rev. 13:18) Here is foundational information; now calculate the result!

When the world hears the Soviet leader has been wounded to death and then miraculously recovers, people are going to be asking questions of those they think might have answers! Let us hope and pray enough of us will be adequately equipped to build upon the interest then insistently voiced. The "church" will not be able!

By early 1984, it had become clear to thinking people that the Lebanon contest had been won by the

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Soviets. What is next? With Lebanon becoming a Soviet staging area, Israel is the next target. The Kremlin has promised Jerusalem to the Moslems and so they cooperate with Russian expansion. Today, the constant talk in Islam is about the recovery of Jerusalem and the return of their "expected one." Then what? With Israel under control, the Soviets will turn against the Arabs. Then there will be total cutoff of Persian Gulf oil to any but Soviet dominated lands. Also, the Soviets continue toward control of South African chrome deposits and Caribbean shipping lanes.

Without oil and chrome, Europe and America are at the Kremlin's mercy. Too little power and essential metal alloys for military equipment would immediately bring these countries to their knees. Without shipments through the Caribbean, the US is throttled to ineffective resistance against Soviet military expansion. It is almost too simple! Reagan knows it, but the over-all support in Congress and among the vocal masses is significantly aligned with the Soviet objectives. The Soviets are poised for the kill. Why should they negotiate and compromise? God help America out of lukewarm complacency! (Rev. 3:15-21)

Is it time?

If indeed, this is the time for curtains to be drawn on this age so a new age of righteousness, cooperation, peace and plenty can take shape, all Christians the world over might do well to ponder where they actually are in God's plan for man's well-being. Over the years, centuries and millennia, there has been constant and effective effort applied through thoughts and devisings of religious man to adapt and re-fit church teaching to suit religious goals preferred by church heads.

An enemy - a man (literal rendition) has sown poisonous seed, outwardly resembling the wheat of the Word, in other men's hearts. Those accepting the poison, either knowingly or inadvertently become as children of the evil one. That poisonous seed has remained, in large measure, and will yet

increase, until the Lord comes for His faithful. So said the Lord. (Matt. 13:28-30, 38-39)

Within the time context of the Firstfruits "rapture", the Lord also reported that Satan has seduced all humanity the world over. (Rev. 12:9) The poison has been thoroughly and deeply deposited, yet made to appear as truth. So widespread has been the nefarious work that the Lord questioned whether even He could find the Faith He taught, when He comes to defend and protect as many as do qualify for His election from pressures of The Great Tribulation. Indeed, all of Christendom has inadvertently accepted His statements in practice, not as the Lord intended, but as religious man has thought best to fit his own goals.

There are hundreds upon hundreds of church organizations, each having arrived at the "right" teaching; yet their teaching differs from others. Whose is right? The Lord's answer was already cited. Perhaps we too have read and understood His general warnings; but almost all try to place the application upon other people. Or, having detected some of the poison, the Christian's tendency is to think there is no more to be found.

Unfortunately, the average Christian will take offense when some poison is clearly labeled, believing the thoughts he repeatedly gets from his Bible reading are the same as intended by the Lord. Thus the Lord cautioned that the deceits and seductions would be so subtle as even to take in the elect, were that possible. (Matt. 24:24) The human heart, guided by its likes and dislikes, is dreadfully deceitful. (Jer. 17:9)

The widely accepted doctrine of the rapture was not one the apostles learned or taught. It was invented by man not more than about 200 years ago. It was designed to lull Christians into passivity, believing they had no more responsibility than to repeat some words given accepting Christ, pray a little with someone - and go to church. Then they are heaven-bound to be walking with Jesus forever - no more troubles, nothing more to do. (Read "WHAT DO YOU MEAN - BORN AGAIN" and "RAPTURE".)

The widely accepted doctrine of the Trinity is made a mandatory belief by most church organizations. It was not one which the apostles learned or taught. Its inception as theory was in 300 A.D. It was so difficult to justify that it required another hundred years to be accepted as "fact". Its biblical foundation is contrived and understanding it is impossible. Its over-all goal is to confuse believers and make our Father, the Jesus Christ Spirit, ever more intangible. (Read "THE INDIVIDUALITY OF FATHER, SON AND HOLY SPIRIT.")

The widespread fear of the "unforgivable sin" has been well used by church organizations for centuries. It has been a convenient tool to force support. Refutation of the doctrine, as taught, is simple for anyone who reads with his eyes open. The subject has been so clouded by church teaching that few Christians realize the valid connection between Christ's promise to forgive any sin and His requirement for actual repentance. Neither are the Holy Spirit's limitations understood (as compared to our Lord's achievements), because of the confusion introduced by the Trinity doctrine. (Read "THE UNFORGIVABLE SIN" by M. Dahl.)

All poisons introduced by enemy-man's reiteration of semi-truths, pseudo-truths and even outright untruths, including the three mentioned, can rather easily be recognized for what they are when subjected to the full Light of the "Thus says the Lord" and the recorded words of Jesus Christ. Unfortunately, most Christians do not know that content of the Bible too well, will not ponder upon what they do read and prefer to stay with what has been previously accepted and become comfortable. To date, little personal distinction has been made between "Christian" and Disciple of Christ. (Read "DISCIPLINE OF GLORY" by the Author and "CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP" by Leland Earls.)

It is because of general lukewarmness toward understanding and practicing the specific teachings of Christ that He decided to provide additional motivations. There will be shock when only a fraction of one percent of all Christians is "raptured"

and realization hits home that the lot of those remaining will be Great Tribulation. Unless there is a personal, total falling away from the Lord's plan, the Tribulation demonstrations of Christ's power, rightness, management, control and compassion will motivate further. Then will there be willing, even eager ears to hear "new" truths which have always been in God's Word! Then will a Glorious Church progressively rise out of the ruins of churches run by man. (Read "WHEN THE LORD COMES.")

Although this study, by itself, is not intended to be an adequate review of all the troubles in Christendom's teachings, there may be space for beginning, hopefully, a continuous process of exploring (with mind alert), re-evaluating, perceiving truths not previously apprehended and replacing whatever needs to be (repentance). (Read "REPENTANCE".) Over the centuries, and of more importance to Christians now, is perception that man's church has developed its own jargon.

Most of us know that during development of a language, meanings of words and phrases can and do take on slightly or very different meanings. For example, the King James Bible, translated in the early 1600's, presents Paul's teaching on events of our time in these words: "For the mystery of iniquity doth already work (in Paul's day): only he who letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. Then shall the wicked be revealed, whom the Lord will consume ..."

We think of the word "let", in this context, as permitting. In the English of today, it should read: "For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work, only he who now restrains (or hinders) will continue to hinder (the revealing of the truth about Christ's coming), until he be taken out of the way (or out of the midst - of Christians)." This is another area of teaching which the Church has flawed, making the Holy Spirit the one removed, instead of Satan, whom almost everyone agrees should be removed. Otherwise, how could people then enter the Faith? (Read "THE ANTI-CHRIST".)

Church jargon has a heavy responsibility for

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Christians today missing out on the understanding and practice of truths vital to well-being and an effective demonstration of their following Christ wherever He goes. (Rev. 14:1-5) To be presented here is a partial list of and refresher on words which have become part of church jargon, many or all of which may be discovered no longer communicate as originally intended. But let not any of us limit the investigation to a "word study."

Hopefully, all who earnestly desire truth that is Truth, with understanding, will also be willing to change patterns of thought, speech and practice wherever indicated. Change in thought patterns is guaranteed to disclose a great deal in the Word of God which has been kept secret for centuries - by religious man! Change in patterns of speech will facilitate the transmission of "new" truths more acceptably to all frustrated by the spiritual deadness of man's church.

Change in patterns of practice of actual truths will quickly transform the Christian's entire life, free him from bondage to a religious system which is generally recognized as one that really doesn't work. Then will open up a whole new vista of highly desirable potential. This will further guarantee assurance that in Christ there can be no, not any, tribulation - even during a Great Tribulation for those who, as yet, know not what it is to be in Christ. (Jhn. 16:33) That then leads into living in the Kingdom of Almighty God! (Jhn. 14:12)

There is quite a list of "jargon" words to evaluate. It includes, among others, Evil, Judgment, Grace, Worship, Born Again, Repentance, Love, Faith, Christian vs Disciple, Holy Spirit Baptism, Saving, Overcoming, Spirit Leading, Trust, Serve. But before continuing this reading, take a few moments without interruption. Let your mind settle on how you think the Lord would plan to enable each of these words to be understood, no matter how the Adversary would try to distort and pervert them in religious teaching. Would He not encode special portions in dramas and patterns so religious man would not suspect a vital but uncomfortable truth is

hidden there? Would He not design the written Word of God to be self-correcting in the hands of the few who would dig deeply for its "gold?"

Part 2

Our loving heavenly Father wants each of us to know what day it is and what time of day it is. The graduation date for the Firstfruits is coming up and the final examinations are being given. Efforts, hopefully the best efforts of each one will be graded. Therefore, the Lord wants us to know how little time there is until the Matt. 25 midnight call, not in general, but in specifics. To Ninevah, the Prophet said, "In forty days..." That was specific! "At the end of the prophesied 430 years, even to the very day, all the hosts of the Lord went out of Egypt." That was specific! God does not change!

But understand this: had the householder understood in what kind of watch the thief was coming (he should have), he would not have allowed his house (his church) to be broken through. You also must be ready, therefore, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour as you think not - as you can't yet imagine! (Matt. 24:43-44 literal)

They did not understand the plan, until the flood of emotional conflict came and swept all away. (Matt. 24:39) So carefully watch and evaluate the events as they fulfill the patterns shown in the Prophecies. Measure the time remaining by pondering the world scene developments.

Our ministry has highlighted dozens of studies presenting hundreds of clear indicators, even dated information with compelling criss-crossing confirmations of the last of the 1980's being the final hours of the "day." What does a thoughtful person do with such information? Of course, he analyses it intellectually, to validate it to his understanding of the correlation of prophecy with to-day's events. Then does he place it on a shelf while he waits to see what actually does transpire? Not the thoughtful person! He puts his information to work; he capitalizes on what is learned.

All of that was for the purpose of motivating

personal inventory - as when preparing for final examination. Regardless of man's guess at the preparation time available to "virgins" before going out to meet the Bridegroom, wise or foolish virgins, much remains to be done. If personal participation in the "rescue" mission soon to begin is as important to us as is our involvement with the Lord, we better get on our "white suits" and practice rescue tactics - with verve!

Much religious teaching has been framed around church jargon, originally and subsequently intended to lead church communicants toward pre-conceived conclusions. (The enemy, a man, has been consistently and effectively working.) For centuries, the Church legislated and enforced its rules about keeping the Bible out of the hands and minds of the masses. Even today, whole bodies of teaching are built upon specially selected concepts calculated to differ from the teachings of other groups of people. For example, the teachings of Islam. We might place Christian Science and Jehovah's Witnesses among those dividing off. Science of the Mind is another.

All such offshoots become established by carefully pre-planned use of words, only words. The words develop ideas, ideas build emotions, ideas and emotions energize physical support - and a new activity is born to then build itself upon the souls of men. (Ezek. 13:18, 22:25, Rev. 18:13)

Let us be reminded again that church jargon has heavy responsibility today for Christians missing out on comprehension and practice of truths vital to well-being, and cheating them out of effectively following Christ wherever He goes. Far too many in the Christian bodies teach, Those who love the Lord say so and are considerate of other believers in their organization. The Lord taught that those who love Him obey His commands.

There is an impressive list of such words that now communicate only what their evolution within man's direction dictates. How can anyone reach the Lord's goal for him, unless he speaks the same language as does the Lord, with all of the same word

meanings in mind as He intended? The words on this impressive list, therefore, should be carefully analysed and then re-shaped to fit the Word of God. Yet in most cases, communication of the intended information will not be aided without the use of alternate English words in place of the well established religious vocabulary.

We can begin with Evil, Judgment, Repentance and Overcoming. The references cited are selected, as much as possible, to provide additional teaching help beyond the literal translation.

EVIL

Evil is awful; evil is related to hellfire and damnation; evil is bad, like prolonged torture into murder. That is the sense many of us have been given of the Bible use of the word. Therefore, a reasonable man would conclude that his life is really not that evil and he is not concerned with the warnings. Yet overly sensitive people might read in Scripture "how evil they are in God's sight" and automatically conclude there is no place for them in God's circle. But look and, at last, see!

The New Testament's foundation is the Old:

Isa. 1:16 - Put away the "evil" of your doings, meaning the bad, the harmful, the mischief, the wrong, the naughty, the grievous things; cease to do "evil", to spoil by breaking (the plan), cease to do hurt, cease to make bad.

Isa. 3:9 - They rewarded "evil" to themselves. They brought harm upon themselves.

Isa. 5:20 - Woe to them that call "evil" good and good "evil"; that call the harmful good and the good harmful.

Isa. 33:15 - Who can dwell with age-lasting burnings? (This might be thought of as spontaneous combustion within.) He who shuts his eyes from seeing "evil", that which is harmful.

Isa. 45:7 - I build peace and make room for "evil" (men), those who do harm to God's plan and to other men. (The Lord does not create evil!)

Isa. 56:2 - Blessed is he who keeps his hand from doing any "evil", from engaging in anything that is

harmful, including breaking the sabbath.

Isa. 57:1 - The righteous are taken away from "evil", from all that is harmful and interfering with God's plan for their well-being.

Isa.65:12 - You did not listen, but did "evil" before My eyes, did harmful things, knowing I was looking on.

Jer. 1:14 - Out of the north, the "evil" shall break forth, prophetically referring to the onslaught of the eastern bloc nations to do great harm to every one opposing.

Jer. 29:11 - I know the thoughts I have for you, plans for well-being, for peace and not for "evil", not for anything harmful (He is a loving Father -He plays no favorites).

Jer. 51:60 - Jeremiah wrote in the scroll all the "evil" that should come out of Babylon, all about the harmful nature of Babylon's confusion of truth. For example, "everything is not going well for me - so the Lord must have left me."

Ezek. 33:11 - Turn from your "evil" ways, for why will you die? What average Christian will admit to evil ways; yet his harmful habits (most of them so "innocent") are what bring him to death.

From the New Testament:

Matt. 5:37 - Let your Yes be simply Yes ...; anything more than that comes from "evil" (not as it ought to be, grievous).

Matt. 5:39 - But I say to you, Do not resist "evil", the earned grief and toil to make right a wrong wilfully done to another.

Matt. 6:3 - But deliver us from "evil", from all that is hurtful in effect or influence.

Matt. 6:34 - Sufficient for each day is its own "evil" (the troublous nature of it). Each day poses its own little problems, but they all can be employed as lessons and testing of strength supposedly attained, lessons adequate for the time.

Matt. 7:11 - If you then, being "evil", not yet as you ought to be, already know how to give advantageous gifts to your children, will He ...? When the Lord sees His children beset with a problem, why does He often allow the problem to almost devastate

the child? What cuts off His help? "I build peace and make room for men who do harm." Why? As Father, He is training each one toward carrying total responsibility for himself. The remedies for each problem have been recorded in the Bible textbook. He has made the method available and has assigned His Holy Spirit to clarify, once real effort has been made to both find and apply the remedy (asking). He makes room for learning; He provides the building blocks for peace. Will He then repeat Himself to children unwilling to trust the Word already given? (Zech. 7:7) No, it is and should be one's personal responsibility to accept His remedy already provided, and make it work for relief, just as intended, responding more as one ought to (refusing to remain "evil").

Matt. 12:34 - You offspring of vipers! How can you speak good things, you being "evil" (hurtful in effect and influence)? ... The "evil" (hurtful) man, out of his "evil" (harmful) treasure, brings forth "evil" (hurtful) things. ... Men will have to give account for every ineffective word they speak (ineffective for implementing the Lord's plan, therefore hurtful).

Matt. 27:23 - Let Him be crucified! But Pilate said, Why? What "evil" (worthless, noisome) thing has He done?

Mk. 3:4 - Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do "evil" (worthless things)? He was calling their intense activities on the Sabbath worthless!

Jhn 3:19-20 - The test is this ... people have loved the darkness more than the Light, for their works were "evil" (hurtful in effect or influence, mischievous, harmful). For every "evil" doer (fouled or with flaw) hates the light (likes it less). (Pride makes it hard to admit to flaws and so flaws compound, even to envelop others - to their hurt.)

Jhn. 7:7 - I testify of (the world) that its works are "evil" (hurtful in effect and influence)

Jhn. 17:15 - I ask that You keep them from the "evil" (of the world system). The influence of the world system, being grounded in selfishness, is hurtful to man's progress in keeping the New Commandment.

Ro. 7:19 - But the "evil" which I would not, that I do... The picture is not Paul with a perverted glint in little, beady, red eyes, eager and ready to undertake a horrible misdeed, action he is unable to prevent. This "evil" refers to anything which is worthless, even disgusting, in the frame of the Lord's plan for man's advancement. Referred to here is the early level of limited training at which it is impossible for the trainee to contribute much of value to the outworking of God's plan.

With these examples in mind, can you now read your Bible and discuss its truths with others in a different light than traditional teaching sheds? Can you better arrive at the balance in the mind of the Lord when He taught about "evil"?

JUDGMENT

Judgment is most usually considered to be sentencing to hell, or the Lake of Fire, or both. It is awesome and fearsome. It is terrible! It hurls one into everlasting doom. How can this concept be reasonably linked to a loving heavenly Father who continually works with each one of His spirit children to help him become successful in everything attempted?

The Old Testament is traditionally shown presenting a picture of God as a vengeful, unmerciful, blood-thirsty Being. Shall we look for ourselves?

Ps. 1:5 - The ungodly shall not stand in the "judgment"; shall not be able to stand on what they have earned by the time a verdict is made, when their rights are recited, being still unrepentant.

Ps. 9:8 - He shall minister "judgment" to the people. This speaks of the duty of an umpire, pleading their cause, contending for them, not their consignment to hell.

Ps. 25:9 - The meek shall He guide in "judgment" (same word as in Ps. 1:5). They shall be guided in a way to bring about a favorable verdict; guided in the ways of justice.

Ps. 76:9 - God arose to "judgment", to save all the meek. God arose with a favorable verdict to save all who are humble and teachable in truth.

Ps. 101:1 - I will sing of mercy and "judgment". Mercy and justice are worth singing about. There is no reference here to unfavorable verdicts.

Isa. 30:18 - For the Lord is a God of "judgment". He is the Keeper and, as such, must render just decisions (favorable or unfavorable).

Isa. 42:1 - He (the Messiah) will bring forth "judgment" to the Gentiles. It sounds awful, until we understand that the word refers to justice, to fair and equitable verdicts on all matters.

Jer. 51:9 - The subject is Babylon. Her "judgment" reaches to heaven. The notice of her style has reached heaven; her behavior will be justly handled; so flee from her midst, says the Lord.

Hos. 12:6 - Said to believers: Return to your God. Keep mercy and "judgment" and wait for your God! The plea here is to hold fast to just decisions - dispensing justice to all.

Amos 5:7 - Also said to believers: You who turn "judgment" to wormwood (bitterness), ... seek Him who made the Pleides (7). Again it is a call to return to justice for all - as the Lord sees justice.

Mal. 3:5 - In the context of our time, He said, Then I will draw near to you for "judgment" (Oh dear!). But His judgment is favorable for those with whom God can be at peace (Jerusalem), only unfavorable toward the deceivers and unfaithful.

From the New Testament:

Matt. 5:21 - Whoever murders shall be liable to the "judgment". The word here refers to a decision, a decision which can be favorable or unfavorable. In the case of murder, it would be unfavorable, unless repentance intervened (liable to). True repentance always, always takes priority!

Matt. 12:18 - And He shall proclaim "judgment" to the Gentiles (a quote from Isa. 42:1). The Jews of that time might have wished for unfavorable decisions against the Gentiles, but that is not what was said. He promised He would deal equitably with the Gentiles, with justice to all!

Jhn. 5:22 - The Father has committed all "judgment" to the Son. He trusts the Son to make all decisions with justice, for or, if no repentance,

against. A loving Father would emphasize the just decisions which would build and strengthen.

Jhn. 7:24 - Decide not according to appearances (superficially), but judge with righteous "judgment". Thoroughly investigate and analyse and then decide according to the truth of the matter - in justice. Be not psychically led by feelings!

Jhn. 12:31 - Now is the "judgment" of the world (system). Now the ruler of this world (system) shall be cast out. Today this ruler can be cast down and away from anyone insisting upon it. As a result of the rejection of God in human flesh, the Anointed Savior, the world's ways and works have come under a series of righteous decisions, all of which lead to the culminating events now developing. Why? So repentance can have its place!

Ro. 2:3 - And do you think, O man, when you "judge" (others) ..., that you shall escape God's "judgment"? Sounds terrifying! If you make decisions concerning others, is it a surprise that God makes decisions about your activities? Did not the Lord say we should make righteous decisions? So will He! May it be on earth as it is in heaven!

Ro. 2:5 - By callous stubbornness (when there is no repentance), men store up wrath upon themselves on the day of wrath, when God's righteous "judgment" will be revealed. Here, the context shows all adverse decisions are to give motivation and full opportunity in the other direction.

Ro. 14:10 - For we all will stand before the "judgment" seat of Christ. Here, reference is made to decisions on assignment for 60 and 100 fold Christians, not judgments on past right or wrong living. Wrongs are expiated at the time of entering the 60 fold. (Jhn. 5:24) Remember that!

Heb. 6:2 - Let us go beyond the foundational teachings about ... resurrection from the dead and eternal "judgment". Eternal judgment teaching is usually employed to engender fear, but that is not the context. The context refers to age-lasting justice, age-lasting decisions are right decisions for bringing well-being!

1Jhn. 4:17 - ... that we may have confidence for

the day of "judgment" ... Again, the day of right decision in this context must refer to the time at which a decision is made as to graduation from one level to another higher level. In the faithful Christian's life, there are many such decision days; the ultimate on earth, of course, is the time of deciding which overcomers are fully qualified to move up to the New Jerusalem above, to work "hand in hand" with the Lord.

Rev. 15:4 - All nations shall come to worship before You, because your "judgments" are made manifest. It is because Christ's justice in principle, decision and execution is made self-evident in righteousness. Nations will not cower before Him in fear of experiencing almost ultimate destruction! Properly defined, these judgments are to be seen as positive and encouraging and uplifting! Rev. 16:7 - True and righteous are your "judgments". Again, the decisions in view are those which result in the establishment of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ in purity and power. It is the praise of anticipation, not gloating over the destruction of the, as yet, unbelieving portion of the loving heavenly Father's children and their assignment to eternal fires for ever and for ever.

It may be difficult for many to disgorge the traditional teachings about God's judgment. Those who look for the "rapture" of all Christians at once, seem to enjoy the prospect that others not of their persuasion will interminably fry. That is not and could not be a reflection of the mind of One who insists He is the first in the family and will be with the very last one! (Isa. 41:4) Let us get beyond the shallow, even perverted thinking of religious man and approach the wisdom which our Savior liberally provides to meet all needs.

The substance of the truth revealed by Jesus Christ is the spirit of all prophecy. That spoken by Jesus Christ is the life of and the realm behind all prophecy. (Rev. 19:10) Therefore, today be on your guard against the "leaven", the distortions, of the Pharisees (the popularly recognized and accepted religious men), which is hypocrisy.

Nothing is covered up that will not be revealed, said our Lord. (Lk. 12:1-2) But men preach and teach no one can know the day of the Lord's return, not the angels in heaven, not the Son, but only the Father. They say that is the thought in Christ's statement recorded in Matt. 24:35-36, but it is not! It is more "leaven" from the Pharisees.

When you see a cloud rising in the west, at once you say, It is going to rain! And so it does. And when a south wind is blowing, you say, There will be severe heat! And it occurs. ... You know how to interpret what takes place on the earth and in the sky. How is it you do not similarly apply current developments on the world scene to timely prophetic fulfillments? Why do you not evaluate correctly, our Lord asked. This too was a foreview of the decisions made and not made by most people in our generation. (Lk. 12:54-57)

Paul saw through the very human weakness of Christians going out, in self-service actually, to decide on and do what seems right from their viewpoint. He wrote, It is therefore no surprise that those whom Satan uses most effectively (the more religious the better) also masquerade as ministers of righteousness. If the masquerade is inadvertent, it will be all the more sincere. Sincerity invites trust; trust that is not at all analytical can easily betray and seduce. (2Cor. 11:15) What would have happened to any of the ten virgins of Matt. 25, had they not listened and decided on when to go out to meet the Bridegroom?

Is it time? While working to help ourselves determine the answer, it was suggested that the Church jargon developed over centuries of intentional and unintentional masquerading by the religiously inclined, bears heavy responsibility for the paucity of real truth in Christian treasures! Whether or not there remains but only a few weeks until the Lord comes for His Beloved, one would think that all who see themselves as followers of Christ would be searching the Scriptures daily and integrating current events with the prophecies so as to make right priority decisions. It was also

Paul's observation that honest Christians would test and prove all things, and then hold fast only to that found to be good (accurate). (1Thess. 5:21)

Come out, Come out from the distortions of Babylon's often sincere "truths", is the Lord's call today to everyone! (Rev. 18:4-8) The traditional Church is not the Bridegroom's queen she thinks she is; she is but a widow indeed. Come away, Come away from all her thinking and teaching, that you may be taught new and fresh by the Lord Himself through His Word. The Church of today cannot teach what is needful; she is unable and unwilling, even as were the Pharisees.

Thus far, we have looked at the words Evil and Judgment. If not already seen, a review would surely indicate that the evil spoken of in the Bible is rarely a huge and horrible misdeed of truly shocking and immediate proportions. The evil of which Jesus spoke most frequently was that of not believing He had words of help, that He had not only a plan but the plan for man's well-being. Because of their unbelief, He said they would die in their sin. The sin was unwillingness to believe unsailable proof of truth. (Jhn. 8:15-21)

No, the evil of which our Lord warned is, in most cases, that in the many little things, things so little that you and I might view them as inconsequential. It is the accumulation of these little things which gradually creeps up on one; and suddenly he is no more - without knowing what hit him! (Read the booklet on "LITTLE THINGS".) Church jargon may seem to be nothing to worry about, yet it is that which has turned the heads and hearts of many otherwise admirable Christians against damage-preventive truths from Jesus Christ. In effect, it makes them ready for Judgment!

Evil has been made into something else than our Lord repeatedly described. Judgment has been recycled into punishment. The Love of which He spoke goes almost unrecognized in the Church. Grace has been distorted into the development of compromise and passivity. Faith has been transformed into whatever one wants to accept. Spirit Leading is

usually misunderstood soul leading - unbeknown to the one being led. Even Worship has been largely doctored to fit the entertainment preferences of religious man. The list hardly stops here; it could go on and on with Born Again, Christian, Salvation, Trust, Serve, Praise, etc. It is the basics which have been first attacked.

Surprised?

Repentance has become one of the jargon words also. It means feeling sorry, maybe even crying about something, doesn't it? Not necessarily!

REPENTANCE - FORGIVENESS

In the Bible, forgiveness is closely linked with repentance, so both will be examined. The Old Testament mentions the Lord's repenting or not repenting. This should give rise to an interesting question, inasmuch as the Scripture also speaks of the God who does not change! (Mal. 3:6)

2Chron. 7:14 - And I will forgive their sin (be placated concerning it) and will heal their land. Ps. 25:18 - Behold my affliction and my pain, and forgive all my sins (hold me up, spare me from their results). Surely a loving Father will answer! Ps. 86:5 - You, O Lord, are good and ready to forgive (to be placated).

Isa. 2:9 - The common man lowers himself, also the great man degrades himself (before idols); therefore, forgive them not (do not spare them, help them, hold them up). The idols of today are hardly different in basics from those of the ancients.

Jer. 4:28 - Because I (the Lord) have spoken it, I have purposed, and I have not repented (sighed, or relented). Here the word is not a reversal.

Jer. 18:23 - Lord, You know all their plotting against me to slay me. Forgive not their iniquity (do not cancel, cleanse, purge, or cover for their iniquity), nor blot out their sin from Your sight. Ezek. 18:30 - Repent (turn back or away from, go into reverse) and turn yourselves from all your transgressions (breaking of law), so iniquity (perversion of truth) will not be your ruin.

Ezek. 24:14 - I the Lord have spoken it; it shall

come to pass, and I will do it; I will not go back, neither will I spare; nor will I repent (relent).

The Lord can and does relent, when the conditions put under pressure do change; but the Lord does not repent (turn back or reverse Himself)! Why does He not repent (to reapproach the matter differently)? Is it not because of His maturity in Spirit that He has made no errors in His decisions concerning man's well-being?

The New Testament continues in the same vein. Matt. 3:2 - Repent, all of you! The Kingdom of heaven is at hand! Think differently, reconsider. Matt. 3:8 - Bring forth the fruit consistent with repentance! Bring forth the fruit of your regret, your remorse into reformation, as validation. Matt. 6:14 - If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. The forgiveness here is: letting it drop, sending away resentment and bitterness. It speaks of acquittal, holding no grudge. It is directed far more toward the one "forgiving" than to the one forgiven.

Mk. 3:28 - All sins shall be forgiven the sons of men! It is the same word here, carrying the thought of acquittal and giving up all future thought of inflicting like damage to get even. Our God is a loving Father, not an ogre! But we must understand this is not the last word on the subject; we still have not looked at Lk. 17:3.

Mk. 3:29 - Whoever challenges or abuses the Holy Spirit has no acquittal (from the One challenged or abused, the Holy Spirit - reread :28) into the age (before the Millenium, initiating the new series of ages). The assignments of the Holy Spirit are to transmit the Word-seed and clarify the terms of God's plan, not to arrange for forgiveness. Jesus Christ does the forgiving in our age.

Lk. 6:37 - Forgive and you shall be forgiven.

Free fully, set at liberty from pressure to recompense; then you shall likewise be set at liberty from your otherwise responsibility to recompense the Lord for harm done His plan, necessitating His giving His life for yours.

Lk. 13:3, 5 - Except you repent, you shall likewise

perish. Unless you think differently, reconsider your unbelief, you shall likewise perish.

Lk. 17:3-4 - If your brother sins (against you - read :4), solemnly tell him so and reprove him. And if he repents (thinks differently, reconsiders), forgive him (let the matter drop, put away grudges and resentment, give an acquittal). A casual "being sorry" or even weeping is not enough to qualify. An actual repentance can be measured only by real effort to change, having reconsidered.

Rev. 2:5 - Remember from what heights you have fallen (from your primary love, the Lord and His Word recorded for you). Repent and do the works (the works called for in as much of His plan as you have understood - and the work to learn more of it so there can be more conforming works)! Or else I will visit you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent. The word for repent is the same in both instances, meaning to think differently and reconsider. It is inseparably linked to physical follow through, validating the different thinking.

What should the word repentance now mean to you? Do you recall the parable about the two sons, one of whom told the father he would not help him in his vineyard, but then repented and did help? He had no remorse into tears; he did not even go to tell his father he had repented, according to the record. This son represents unbelievers, sinners in repentance. The other son who said he would help in the vineyard and then did not represents the traditional Church. (Matt. 21:28-31) Do you now better see we should look to the Lord's teaching, not man's?

The Prodigal Son, under pressure, changed his mind, made a decision to return to his Father's house and undertook the long journey back. With this demonstration of repentance, he was royally welcomed, all the past was put aside, dropped, and there was a great and joy-filled celebration. The change started with reconsideration, but confirmed by follow through. On proof of adequate follow through, there was no longer any problem, no problem at all with reunion in the father's house!

These two parables bring another basic factor

into view, that of overcoming. The sons in each parable did something to conquer a previously controlling desire. But traditional Church teaching does not handle the word "overcoming" in the same way. In its jargon, overcoming is something that Jesus did for you on the Cross, and so there is nothing left to be done. What a distortion of truth! Back to the Bible!

OVERCOMING

The Old Testament uses the words overcoming and victory in the sense of absolutely conquering in battle; so does the New.

Matt. 12:20 - A bruised reed (speaking of Rome) He will not break, and a smoldering wick (flax represented the Levitical priests and modern ministers, low on oil and giving smokey light) He will not quench, until He sends for judgment unto victory, brings just cause for victory (conquest of the world system, triumph over it at Armageddon).

Lk. 11:21-22 - When the strong (the long trained human spirit), fully armed, guards his own dwelling, his property is secure. But when one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him (absolutely conquers), he robs him of his whole armor in which he has relied and divides his goods as plunder.

Jhn. 16:33 - Be of good cheer; I have overcome the world system operations. I have conquered them absolutely! He did it by completing the work given Him to do. (Jhn. 17:4) Jesus lived without sinning, without giving in to temptation. His peerless strength was built into His life-seed. That strength is potentially available to every "born again" Christian who has had adequate instruction in the Lord's plan, every one immersed in it.

Ro. 12:21 - Be not overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. Be not absolutely conquered by what is worthless and noisome, but absolutely conquer what is worthless with what is beneficial.

1Cor. 15:54 - Then shall be fulfilled the Scripture that says, Death is swallowed up in victory - in triumphant conquest.

1Cor. 15:57 - Thanks be to God who gives us the

victory, the clear-cut triumph, through our Lord Jesus Christ. There is a body of religious teaching which informs the gullible that they are already overcomers, because they mumble the words "Jesus Christ" while in Sunday meetings. Paul wrote "us", which included himself. He described his life as a constant battle of straining forward, buffeting himself into conformance, if by any chance he might win the prize of resurrection out from among the dead who have done the same.

2Tim. 4:8 - Henceforth, there is laid up for me the victor's wreath of righteousness. The victor's wreath is the earned award for overcoming all that detracts from running the course of the Lord's plan, to win! This is the course for all who love the Lord's appearing.

Rev. 11:7 - When the two witnesses have finished their 1260 day testimony, the beast of the abyss will overcome them, absolutely conquer them (so it will appear) and kill them. But in 3 1/2 days, they shall stand up again and rise to meet the Lord.

Rev. 13:7 - And power was given the beast to wage war on God's holy people (the Jews specially set apart from all nations and still in the focus of the coming earthly Kingdom) and overcome them, absolutely conquer them. Palestine will be overrun, Jerusalem divided to the Arabs and the abomination that makes desolate appears in the Holy Place. (Jer. 1:13-15)

Rev. 15:2 - Then I saw those who had gotten the victory over the beast (absolute conquering of all he stands for), his image (communism, socialism) and the number of his "name".

Rev. 17:4 - The ten rulers will wage war against the Lamb (against Christians), and the Lamb (strategy He gives them) shall overcome the rulers (will conquer absolutely - Halleluja!).

Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 26, 3:5, 12, 21, 21:7 - To him who does overcome (not him who has Christ's "vicarious overcoming"), to him who absolutely conquers hindering, harmful habits besetting all Christians, to him will I give and grant ...

In spite of man's opinion, it is abundantly clear in the Lord's Word that He gives nothing to a

Christian before some absolute conquering!

Part Three

Perhaps everyone is almost too much aware of it being very human to put off until the last moment things needing to be done. Few begin their income tax calculations until April; the mortgage isn't paid until the due date; property taxes are mailed just before penalties are assessed. Christians know there is a day on which the Lord will return to take what is rightfully His, yet we see very little preparation for that day. The typical reasoning is apparently based on the opinion that there is still plenty of time. It is supported by the observation that many sincere men have predicted the Lord's return - and He never did.

One fallacy, of course, is that most such predictions were made without the full light of prophecy. Not until modern Israel came into being, could the final generation of this culminating age be spotted. Now, that is part of modern history. Now all can know the time with at least fair accuracy; a generation is not longer than 40 years - by Bible pattern and by modern concept. Then why the tremendous resistance to what is called "date-setting"? Could traditional Church teaching have misled people into valuing their religious status quo, to enrich the Church?

Should everyone know? What did the Lord indicate? In the context of His return for His own, He said, As in the days of Noah, so will it be in the time of the Son of Man. People ate, they drank, they married, they were given out of marriage, right up to the day when Noah (meaning rest) went into the ark. Is this outlook not especially stressed today? And the flood came and destroyed them all. Warnings were given, but did not get attention! Noah was not in the city (the world system), but was set apart. He entered the ark without being seen by city dwellers. After a great deal of work on the Lord's plan, he qualified for his rest. Noah knew when to go up into the ark; he learned the time from the Word of God. Those who listened to Noah also

knew. Others experienced slow drowning as turbulent waters progressively rose, today typed by the growing emotional turmoil the world over.

So also it was in the days of Lot. People ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built. Here, there is no mention of marriage; the stresses of The Great Tribulation will be too severe on most. Lot was living in the city (not typing the Firstfruits taken), but Lot means covering. He types those who will be an umbrella of protection for areas in which they live - as long as they are there. But on the very day that Lot went out of Sodom, it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed all. How far from "Sodom" do any of us live today; who has not heard of the fearsome A.I.D.S. epidemic? Lot knew when to go, by the Word of God. Lot and those with him were seen to leave, after contending vigorously with wickedness all around him. Thus Lot represents the Harvest Host; the fire and brimstone, the 13 1/2 day all-out, global nuclear war.

That is the way it will be during the 3 1/2 year "day" in which the Son of Man is revealed. Remember Lot's wife (referring to soul desire). Get beyond attachments to things and social ties. In that night, there will be two men (spiritually attuned) in one bed (the same potential rest in the Lord); one will be taken and one left. In that day, there will be two women grinding together (foolish virgins left behind at midnight); but only one will be taken, the other left. Where will they be taken? The literal translation gives the sense of their being received unto Himself. He also said they would be gathered together in that place where the slain Lamb would be. (Lk. 17:26-37)

Are we today not expected to discern the time, as watchmen on the wall, and be "date setters"? (Ezek. 33:6-7) Peter also wrote of this. You must understand that scoffers will come in the last days, people who walk after their own fleshly desires. They ask in derision, Where is the assurance, the proof of The Lord's coming (on one date or another)? Since the forefathers fell asleep, all things have

continued exactly as from the beginning. The same standard patterns continue as always - you will see.

Nevertheless, do not let this one fact escape you, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years (His Word reveals His two "days" of preparation, not more - Hos. 6:2). The Lord is not slow about what He promises, according to some people's concept of slowness. He is extraordinarily patient, not desiring that any should perish, but that all would turn to His Word and repent. (To what did the brief study on repentance point?)

Is it almost past time to re-think and re-group for "rescue" assignment?

If so, we surely need to re-examine the basics most of us have used in building our Christian lives. What will be your experience? Will you be one taken, or left at the midnight hour. Or will you grind the "wheat" of His Word another 3 1/2 years and then wonder if you will be taken or left on that morning? How do you manage your life within the Lord's concepts of Evil, Judgment, Repentance - Forgiveness, and Overcoming? Our brief inquiry into the Lord's basic word pictures revealed considerable difference between the word use in the Bible and impressions settled upon by the religiously inclined. After our research to stress the Lord's clearly intended insights, we know there is a great deal more to uncover.

But again, why have church-goers been erroneously taught that Evil describes only massive wickedness (of which no law abiding citizen in Christian nations is guilty), Judgment refers to doom for anyone ignoring his Church laws, Repentance is accomplished by expressing sorrow, and Forgiveness is something any other Christian must do for us? Truths laced with poison are intended to make representatives of the Kingdom of God on earth ineffective. That has never been the Lord's plan! He said those believing into Him would begin by doing the works He did. Now, do you better understand why such works died out with the Apostles and their immediate followers?

The Overcoming and Righteousness calls in God's Word are not much stressed among average Christians. Neither are the subjects popular. When they do come up, Overcoming becomes an intangible something which Jesus Christ vicariously accomplished on the Cross for all men. Subsequently, any person who turns to Christ is immediately an overcomer, by Epistle definition it is said. Christ's righteousness is also said to be imparted somehow in the same way. Of course, it has to be assumed that this righteousness does not become evident until after death. In the meantime, the unthinking Christian is pounded from pillar to post, wondering about all his suffering, he being (as he has been told) "righteous in Christ's eyes".

Everyone knows that it was by Abram's faith that he was counted righteous! Here are two of the basic words, "faith" and "righteousness".

RIGHTEOUSNESS

Gen. 15:6 - Abram, meaning high father, carried out the pattern of sacrifice of his "only" son as a shadow picture to benefit future generations. And the Lord accounted it to Abram as righteousness. Abram's trust in God's promise was response in rightness - in strict accord with the plan.

Deut. 12:8, 28 - You shall not do whatever looks right (straight, even, upright) in your own eyes, ... but what is good (beneficial) and right (upright, straight) in the sight of the Lord your God. Even what is right in man's best plan is not beneficial and right fitting in the Lord's.

Ps. 4:1 - Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness. God means Keeper. Man's following in His plan preserves man in what is right; that is righteousness the Lord can and will recognize.

Ps. 5:8 - Lead me, O Lord, in your righteousness (Your plan); make Your way straight before me.

Ps. 15:1-2 - Who shall dwell in Your Holy Hill (Kingdom)? He who walks uprightly (according to the plan) and works righteousness (rightness - again, according to the plan). After the initial trust step, rightness is by works within God's plan.

Isa. 28:17 - I will make justice the line (the earth work measure) and righteousness the plummet (the vertical and spiritual measure). The righteousness here is again the rightness necessarily according to the Lord's specific plan.

Isa. 32:17 - The effect of righteousness shall be peace and the result of righteousness quietness through the age. Conformance to the specific terms of the Lord's plan earns peace from God, for he then needs not work to change the direction. The result is a sense of well-being without anxiety, knowing the Lord is pleased.

Isa. 54:14 - In righteousness you shall be established; you shall be far from even the thought of oppression or destruction, for you shall not fear; terror shall not come near you. The Lord's plan has built-in protection for all diligently following its provisions. When one is established in that specific plan (not what religious man says is His plan), there is no foundation for fear or panic. History is full of the proofs of this truth. Isa. 64:6 - For we all have become as one who is unclean, and all our own righteousnesses are as a polluted garment. "Our righteousnesses" here are rightnesses according to a specific plan, but not the Lord's plan. Do not that which is right in your own shortsightedness, but only that which is right and beneficial in the Lord's sight.

Ezek. 33:12 - ...Neither shall the righteous (upright) be able to live because of his past righteousness (rightness) in the day that he misses the mark. It is the conformance to the plan now that brings the results built into the plan!

Hos. 2:19 - I will betroth you to Me in rightness (according to the specific plan), in love and in mercies. I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness, and you shall know the Lord. There will be no actual knowing without becoming intellectually and experientially aware of His plan well beyond the "saving" and Holy Spirit Baptism initiations!

Zeph. 2:3 - Seek the Lord, all you humble of the land (eager to be taught truth); seek what is right (the teaching in His plan), seek humility (the

special desire to learn truth from the Teacher), that you may be hidden in the Day of the Lord's anger. Such appropriate advice, particularly for our generation! Eagerness for learning truth is inseparably linked with righteousness.

The New Testament shows the same.

Matt. 6:33 - Seek as first things the Kingdom of God (the rule of His plan) and His righteousness (the rightness that is self-evident to one learning His plan for man's well-being).

Ro. 1:17 - In the Good News, the righteousness of God (self-evident right, the rightness measured by His plan) is revealed, both springing out from faith (acceptance of His plan) and leading into faith (acceptance of more of His plan, in action). As it is written, The man who is upright shall live by faith. This is a partial quotation from Hab. 2:4 - The righteous man shall live by My Faith (Septuagint). Also read Hos. 14:9 - The ways of the Lord are right and the just shall walk in them, but transgressors (those following their own "best" plan) shall stumble and fall in them!

Ro. 14:17 - The Kingdom of God is righteousness (self-evident rightness in His plan), peace (no need for Him then to oppose) and joy in the Holy Spirit (joy from full confidence in His provision, protection and promotion).

1Cor. 1:30 - But it is from God that you are in Christ Jesus (Paul wrote only to those who actively engaged in His plan), whom God has made to us wisdom (the wisdom built into His plan, guaranteeing success), and righteousness (the self-evident rightnesses, the terms of His plan), and sanctification (the no-compromise engagement of only His plan) and redemption (His purchase from the world system of each one honestly joining himself to His unique plan). Paul's comment does not at all claim these attributes of Christ will automatically settle on any man.

2Cor. 11:15 - So it is not surprising if Satan's servants also masquerade as ministers of righteousness (pseudo self-evident rightness according to plan, but not wholly God's plan for man). Here is a reflection again on the wise advice, "Do not do that

which is right in your own eyes; do only that which is right and beneficial in God's sight.

2Tim. 4:8 - Henceforth, there is laid up for me the victor's wreath of righteousness (the self-evident rightness in the terms of God's plan) which the Lord, the righteous Judge (who decides according to that rightness) shall award to me in that day; not only for me, but for all who love His appearing.

Rev. 19:8 - The marriage of the Lamb is come. His Bride has made herself ready. (Therefore) she has been permitted to dress (herself) in fine linen, dazzling and white, because the fine linen is the righteousnesses of the saints. Fine linen is woven of white threads, woven together by those who exclusively desire with the whole heart to engage in the right decisions and deeds called for by God's wisdom in His plan for man. (Jer. 29:13-14)

The Bible equates righteousness exclusively to understanding and practice of the Lord's plan for man's well-being. "Do not that which is right in your own eyes; do only that which is right and beneficial in the Lord's view." That righteousness or rightness results in success, protection, provision, promotion, peace and joy.

Righteousness brings results whenever it is what the Lord can recognize. That easily discernable thread runs through the whole Word of God. But we are taught that results come through faith. What is this faith's link to righteousness? Important as Faith is, could we possibly have been led by masquerading ministers of "righteousness"?

FAITH

What then is the correct and intended focus on Faith? Shall we first look at the Old Testament, since it is the foundation of the New? The verses chosen are not to be an exhaustive review, but chosen for their also presenting some additional teaching which Christians may yet be missing.

Deut. 7:9 - Your God, He is God, the faithful God (who establishes, supports, can be trusted).

Ps. 31:23 - For the Lord preserves the faithful (those who establish, build up, support - His plan)

Isa. 1:21 - How is the faithful city become a harlot; she who was full of justice! (The faithful city was established in truth, but then seduced!)

Isa. 8:2 - And I took faithful (truthful) witnesses to record this prophecy for me.

Jer. 23:28 - The prophet who has a dream, let him tell a dream (likened to straw); but he who has My Word, let him speak My Word faithfully - in truth (likened to wheat). What has straw in common with wheat, says the Lord. The wheat is to be reported in truth; it is the Lord who says, Do not build on dreams, unless you know they are of God; go to His Word and build on the Truth!

Hab. 2:4 - The just shall live by His, the Lord's faith (My, in the Septuagint). His faith is truth, a very specific faith. It reflects another statement of the Lord, Man shall not live by bread alone (made by man), but by every word of God. Here "faith" refers only to the truth!

The use of the word in the New Testament does not change "faith's" relationship to actual truth.

Matt. 9:29 - According to your faith, be it unto you - according to your persuasion and reliance, in this case, upon the effectiveness of God's plan through Jesus Christ's ministry (the Truth).

Lk. 7:50 - But Jesus said to the woman who wept upon and anointed His feet with costly ointment, an especially wicked sinner, your faith has saved you; go into, enter peace. "Enter peace" equates to "sin no more"; it refers to the state of God being at peace with her, not then having to strive with her to change her life focus toward truth. "Your faith", by context, is reliance upon God's plan for man's welfare, as ministered by Jesus Christ - the Truth.

Lk. 12:42 - And the Lord said (in the context of His second coming as a thief to dig through the house of the Church), Who then is the faithful and wise manager whom his Master will set over those in His household service, to supply them their precise amount of food (wheat) at the critical time? "Faithful" here refers to adherence to truth, to the specific plan established by the Master. The servant of the Master (Christian and Christendom) not

found so doing by His Master is to be cut in two. This servant refers to the traditional Church; the dividing, to taking away the very small Bride company, leaving the majority to face the music. And the lot of those left (believers) is to be disciplined with unbelievers by The Great Tribulation's "lashes or stripes".

Lk. 18:8 - However and in spite of the earnest desire of God to defend, protect and avenge His elect speedily, when the Son of man comes, will He indeed find the faith on the earth? Again "the Faith" refers to utter reliance upon the unique plan which is God's plan for man's well-being - the every true word of God, not what men have said about recorded words of God, not even the Epistles. (Read the short study, "The LAW, THE TESTIMONY and THE EPISTLES"; but first note Isa. 8:20.)

How is it possible that traditional Church teachers could have honestly missed the emphasis in both Old and New Testaments on the specific and unique Faith which is the unperturbed truth of God's plan for man's maturity in wholeness and permanence of both body and soul?

Lk. 22:31-32 - Satan has asked excessively that all of you be given him, that he might sift all of you like grain. I have prayed especially for you (Peter) that your faith may not fail. And when you are converted (you call it "born again"), strengthen and establish your brothers (in the truth). "Your faith" necessarily refers to Peter's utter, exclusive reliance on the Father's plan, "God's every word" then being ministered by Jesus Christ, the prime example of the Truth.

Ro. 1:5 - Church use of the Epistles has distorted "the Faith" into a belief in whatever a particular body has chosen for its faith. Yet Paul wrote of the Faith. It is through Jesus Christ, our Lord, that we have received grace (all help required to enable us to prepare) to promote conformance to the Faith among all nations for His "name's" sake. There is no question here about what he included in the Faith - exclusively the "every word from the mouth of God."

Ro. 3:3 - Does their unbelief make ineffective the Faith from God? By no means does such unwillingness change its effectiveness; the Faith is the Truth making up the wholeness of God's Word.

1Cor. 16:13 - Be alert, stand fast in the Faith (not "your" faith). Act like men; grow in strength. You must now see what faith Paul had in mind!

Gal. 2:16, 20 - Yet we know that a man is justified not by works of the law, but by the Faith of Jesus Christ (the Truth He presented). Even we have believed into (more than on or in) Jesus Christ, in order to be justified by the Faith of Christ. Note the emphasis on the unique and effective body of Truth, exclusively sought and attained by believing into (participation in) the plan taught by Jesus Christ who said, I am the Truth. The life I now live in the flesh I live by the Faith of or from the Son of God...

2Tim. 3:8 - Writing about the end of our age, Paul noted an absence of the Faith in lives of typically religious people - churchgoers. He clearly repeats Lk. 18:8, but in more detail. They are hostile toward the Truth, men corrupted in mind (perverted by clever teaching) and castaways (churchgoers, to be rejected), as far as the Faith is concerned. Should not this statement from widely and properly revered Paul prompt all who have founded their beliefs in the Epistles to question everything taught by seminary trained men and their followers? The Jannes and Jambres cited as examples were the chief religious men of Egypt's conglomerate "faith".

Jas. 2:22 - In the context of Abraham's sacrifice of Isaac, James commented, You see that the Faith acted together with his works, and the Faith was matured and filled (validated and strengthened) by works. It was not that Abraham utterly believed in just something, but that he operated within the God-given plan of truth, within the Faith. His works validated the brand of his Faith.

Rev. 2:13 - I know where you live, a place where Satan sits enthroned (rules). Yet you are holding fast My "name" and you did not deny My Faith. Does

this letter from Jesus Christ not apply especially to the Church of our time? Yet how many will be seen bearing the attributes and outworking of the unique plan of Christ (His name), adhering to His whole body of Truth (His Faith)?

Rev. 14:12 - Here in the midst of an environment of world conformance to the plan of the beast and the mark of his name is the endurance of the saints. The saints here are those who habitually keep God's instructions and the Faith of Jesus. Nothing less than living within the whole body of the truth He has placed before us through His Word will preserve, provide for, strengthen, encourage and eventually glorify His saints.

The Old Testament Prophets, Jesus Christ, Paul and others have all related the fact that in the last days of our age, the churches of Christendom will not be able or willing to teach the Faith, though claiming they are. Portions they do teach are laced with poison, undetected by the unwary. I have this against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel (Baal-worshipping Jezebel) who calls herself a prophetess, but who is leading astray. I gave her time to repent (over 1600 years), but she refuses. Therefore, she and her followers will be left in the Great Tribulation of their own making - unless they repent. (Rev. 2:20-22) To repent means to change. How many changes in your faith have been made? How many more should be made?

Come out, come out from her, My people so that you share not in her sins, neither partake of the plagues upon her. She boasts of being wife of the King, sitting on her God-given throne of authority, and promising freedom from suffering for followers faithful to her. She does not concede, yet, that she is wretched, pitiable, spiritually poor, blind and naked. (Rev. 18:4-8, 3:16-17, Lk. 18:8)

Can you not read the writing on the wall by the hand of God - before it is too late?

MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPSARIN!

Recorded (B.C.), recorded (A.D.), evaluated, then cut in two because found wanting!

Religious men of many labels teach faith, most sincerely; God alone teaches His Faith. His Faith is in the whole of the Word of God. He uses the tutors (faithful stewards) He selects to help toward attainment of His Faith; He does not use man-appointed ministers and teachers of faith. Do you know how to tell the difference? Carefully study and analyse Isa. 8:20! Read "STILL TWO-FAITHED?" and "JUST HAVE FAITH".

Part Four

How often has it been said in how many sermons and Bible classes, "Be sure you verify in your Bible whatever you are about to accept." How is verification accomplished, by most? Usually, the identical passages which have been cited are re-read and, sure enough, they still seem to present the same thoughts as suggested by the revered teacher in his sermon or teaching. In religion, even among the clergy, most people will not take the initiative to research and analyse what has been handed them as "truth." These same people will do so in business, science and sports, but not in religion! They trust that someone else has already done that for them. But the Lord said, You shall place no other "keepers" before Me!

There must be hundreds upon hundreds of faiths, Church denominations, sects, cults and assemblies featuring their individual brands of "truth," and none of them completely meshing with others. Why? From the beginning, an enemy-man has been sowing spurious grain in the field of wheat. The tares have been growing almost undetected. Our Lord said they would continue to grow into their maturity, even into the conclusion of our age. Our Lord said the result would bring an almost total perversion of the Faith He designed for man's total well-being. Therefore, instead of reaching the peace objective in His plan, Christian nations and former Christian nations have managed two World Wars and are rapidly bringing on the third, with twice the intensity of destruction. If those days are not shortened, no flesh will survive, but for the sake of those

whom the Lord will elect out of all mankind, those days will be shortened. (Matt. 24: 22)

What qualifies any man for that election? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted himself up to what is false, he only shall stand in His holy place. (Ps. 24:1-6) Instead, with what has religious man been busy, insatiably busy? Maneuvering basic concepts to better fit his own objectives of control over other men, subtle and not so subtle control. Church history of the first 1000 years is filled with that record. The second 1000 years followed suit, sowing more subtly and with more cunning as they conclude. It was well known that alteration of basics would change the whole structure of anything built on those basics. If the foundation of the Pyramid of Truth could be shifted, every subsequent builder's course resting upon that foundation would likewise be shifted in the same direction and magnitude.

Therefore in today's religious circles, we find a different basic vocabulary than that used by Jesus Christ. The words in the language sound the same, but the meanings they carry are not. Foreseeing the trend and result, the Lord sorrowfully exclaimed, "When the Son of man comes, will He indeed find the Faith on the earth?" (Lk. 18:8) And by the time His first elect are cut out of the Church, He spoke of Satan having seduced all humanity. (Rev. 12:9) If the widely accepted Christian Churches have been presenting and clarifying the Truth, why would the Lord have said these things? How could a watered-down state of Church "faith" today have developed?

Of course, those statements of the Lord are not acceptable to religious man, whatever his label. They too are interpreted to mean something else, and the deception advances. Building on perverted basics continues uninterrupted.

So far, we have also examined Evil, Judgment, Repentance - Forgiveness, Overcoming, Righteousness, and Faith. From careful use of Scripture in context, the perversions in traditional teaching are easily detected. Almost always, the Epistles have been used to support traditional teaching, but

even their passages show up the distortions, in the logical context intended by the writer. The Bible focus on Evil is on the little things that cumulatively result in harm. The focus on Judgment is on right analysis and decision.

The focus on Repentance is serious and purposeful reconsideration, validated by new action. Forgiveness is intimately linked with validated repentance - to eliminate poor motivation. The focus on Overcoming is that of taking personal initiative to absolutely conquer all that hinders advancement toward absolute success in whatever might be attempted. The focus on Righteousness is exclusive conformance within the terms of God's whole plan for man's well-being, step by step. Is the focus on Faith just believing on whatever you choose to believe? Hardly! The focus is on the Faith! But better understanding of what is the Faith leads immediately to a new consideration, that of Grace.

GRACE

The Greek word is taken from the word for gift. The sense is found to be the same in both Old and New Testaments. Grace is not intended to be intangible, but real. In His grace, the Lord provided a workable plan by which man could leave the dying process. In His grace, He participated in that plan, and still does, to enable the weak and immature to fully realize its goals. In His grace, He also provided necessary tools, the use of which would ease rebellious man's attainment to the plan's benefits.

God's grace is making available His freedom setting power, along with the tools of the trade. The free gift of God (initial salvation, beginning eternal life for the soul garment) is one example of God's grace in operation. With His glorified seed (spora), wholly structured in His righteousness, planted in the heart to progressively restructure the whole of human desire and then restructure every cell in the physical body, man will wish for and choose the balance of His immortality plan!

With man's appetite awakened for the Word of

Truth, and reasonable effort made to follow through, another grace takes up. It is the Holy Spirit working to clarify the terms of God's beautifully exquisite plan so man can have the same mind as does God about every truth in His Word. The Faith is thereby enlightened and enlarged. God's grace never did or will automate arrival at the goal, no matter what man says about God's grace. The learner is required to exercise himself in proper use of the God-given tools and plan.

It is through man's own efforts within God's plan, with whatever additional help is required from the Father, that he is to make progress toward the goal of becoming perfect (matured) as is his Father in heaven. (Matt. 5:48) All who would follow Christ to the summit of full sonship must themselves take on His yoke and pull alongside with Him (His will in His plan). They must be taught and tutored by Him, if they would arrive at the completeness and maturity required. His plan, His goals, His Truth, He himself must become and remain by far more important than anyone or anything. Otherwise, His grace is wasted!

Let us not engage in contest with Almighty God. He who so successfully handles the variables in the immensity of the universe can somehow manage our little problems better than we. When we find ourselves, as we do so often, at odds with His plan, let us immediately sue for peace, peace on His terms. Then the joy of real progress up the ladder will again be ours. Then true worship develops.

WORSHIP

When well versed and well practiced in the Lord's plan (designed totally for our benefit), when possessing an adequate store of the Faith through His Grace, we begin to know Him. Then we begin to honestly appreciate Him for His immeasurable love for each of His children, and He can be worshipped in spirit and in truth.

What is that worship? Not surprisingly, the word means different things to different people. Perhaps even we should make certain of what the Lord

recognizes as worship and make sure we can be His different and "peculiar" people. To some, this concluding analysis may be a block buster, so be reminded to give the Lord thanks for all things!

The worship words used in the Old and New Testaments have basically the same meanings, with but little variation. The Old Testament treats the physical aspects primarily; the New deals with the spiritual applications. In the New Testament, Worship and Love walk the same path, to be joined as it reaches higher elevations by their more intense sister, Adoration.

But let us be careful and sensitive. If we think we know it all beforehand, we surely do not know it as we ought; we are but children in training. (1Cor. 8:2, Matt. 18:3)

Come, let us see how the Lord views acceptable worship. It will not be an exhaustive review of passages on worship; the verses are selected also for the additional illumination they may offer.

Gen. 22:5 - And Abram said, I and the young man (probably 33 years old then) will go yonder and worship. Abram went yonder to sacrifice his own son with a knife! The actual worship in mind was doing what God had asked. Of course, he subsequently bowed down in thanksgiving and praise when the ram supplied by Jehovah-Jireh (Yahweh seen manifesting - there) was sacrificed in place of Isaac.

Ex. 32:5, 6, 8 - When Aaron saw the molten calf, he built an altar before it and said, Tomorrow shall be a feast to Jehovah. Early the next day, they brought burnt and peace offerings; the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play. The Lord said to Moses, They have made a golden calf and worshipped it! Their claim was that the copy of the Egyptian calf represented the gods who brought them up from Egypt. They bowed down to it as their keeper. Always the worship of the gods of Egypt was to placate them and buy their favor. Even today, the typical turning to God is to beseech Him during a seige of trouble. Worship in such a frame does not exactly please the Lord!

Neh. 8:6 - And Ezra blessed the Lord, the great

God, having opened the Book of the Law of Moses. All the people answered, Amen, Amen, lifting up their hands; and then they bowed their heads and worshipped the Lord with faces toward the ground. Was the lifting of hands and bowing of heads toward the ground their worship of the Lord? No indeed! They had come together with one mind to learn God's plan. They had prepared themselves to study from early morning to at least noon. They were so intent on being taught they wept, upon hearing and understanding. That was worship, well pleasing to God. Then joy in trusting Him became their strength, and they celebrated the restoration of the Word to their midst. Read about it and compare to what Christians do today.

Ps. 29:2 - Give to the Lord the glory due His "name"; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. Is it "bow down" to Him in the beauty of His holiness, or is the beauty to be seen by Him in the one setting himself utterly apart from the usual practice of believers in traditional worship?

Ps. 95:6-7 - Come, let us worship (bow down); let us kneel before the Lord our Maker. For He is our God (Keeper) and we are the people of His pasture (the "field" of spiritual food into which He brings His own) and the sheep of His hand (the followers in His work). Today, if you will hear His voice (in His Word), harden not your heart in provocation or contention. "Let us worship." Is not the worship in view the digesting of His Word and following in His work pattern?

Isa. 2:8, 20 - Their land (microcosm inner as well as geographical) is filling with idols; they worship the work of their own hands. In the Day of the Lord, men shall cast away their idols of silver and of gold which they made for themselves to worship. The average Christian's "land" today is more filled with idols than in Isaiah's time. The idols are the pursuits and possessions that usurp time for learning and living God's plan for man's well-being. That is the thrust of the worship noted here, not a perfunctory nod of the head and raising of hands, or words of praise or prayer. If

you love Me, you will do what I have said!

Jer. 13:10 - This evil people who refuse to hear My words, who walk in the stubbornness of their heart and have gone after other gods to serve them and to worship them ... are profitable for nothing. The term "evil people" seems to let us off the hook - until we realize the Lord speaks here of naughty, troublesome, mischievous little children. See the qualities to which their "worship" is linked. Refusal to conform to (really hear) My words. Walking in stubbornness of heart-desire. Relying upon things and other people to keep away harm and unpleasantness. Serving them! What then is the "worship", the obeisance the Lord hates?

Amos 5:21 - Although the word "worship" is not used here, listen to the Lord as He describes believer's worship during the Day of the Lord, fulfilling in our generation. I hate your festival celebrations; I will not smell the savor or take delight in your solemn assemblies. Though you (go through the motions to) offer Me burnt offerings (whole sacrifice - see Ro. 12:1-2) and your accompanying cereal offerings (seed), I will not accept them; neither will I look upon the voluntary sacrifice of fatted beasts (money, possessions) in thanks (peace offering).

Take away from Me the noise of your songs, for I will not listen to the melody of your "viols" (lyres, but also vessels - thereby referring to melody from the human body). But let justice run down like water (overflowing) and rightness as an overflowing stream. Did you bring Me the sacrifices and cereal offerings during the 40 years in the wilderness (your period of testing and proving)? No. Instead, you carried the tent of your hidden one (referring to Lucifer), your images of your star-god, which you made for yourselves (variants from the plan of the true God). Where did He say "worship" is actually being directed by the majority of believers in the Day of the Lord?

Zeph. 1:4-7, 15-16 - I will stretch out my hand over Judah (meaning praise - today's Christendom) ... and I will cut off the remnant of Baal ... and

those who worship and swear by the Lord, and yet swear by Malcham (Molech, referring to Satan in disguise) ... and those who have (in God's view) drawn back from following the Lord ... for the Day of the Lord is near ... the Day of Wrath, of distress and anguish, ... of the blast of the Trumpet. The Lord surely looks carefully and thoughtfully at what lies behind the bowing down posture of heart and mind! The foundation of true worship is in learning and practicing God's plan for man!

Matt. 4:9 - And the devil said to Jesus, All these things I will give You, if You will fall down and worship me. Then Jesus said to him, ... You shall worship the Lord (the One in control) your God (the One who keeps safe) and Him only shall you serve. Again we see the inseparable linking of worship and cooperation. We have been told, and properly so, that the Greek of worship used twice here means "kissing the hand toward", but it goes further. The word picture in it is that of a faithful dog coming to his master and licking his hand. The picture over-all is one of willing, even eager cooperation exclusively with the Master (the Lord). Is it really worship which we observe in the nation's church meetings?

When one is all warm in his heart toward our Lord, praising His name, singing His praises, even praying to Him - is it worship He sees? Maybe, maybe not; maybe, but usually maybe not. At times He said, I hate your festivals, your sacrifices, your righteousness, etc.! I do not hear your prayers! Can He view these expressions as true worship in spirit, if there is less than constant attention toward learning and doing what His plan calls for in daily living?

Within these terms, how many worship meetings are worship meetings? How many who worship are worshippers? One who consistently and extensively studies sound teaching in new as well as familiar truths, in their manifold applications, may have something viable (in spirit and in truth) on which to base real worship. But where are others left who are too busy to be taught or study?

Matt. 15:9, 8 - But in vain do they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commands (instructions) of men. This people honor Me with their lips, but their heart holds Me off. It is in vain, if we try to separate the Lord's concept of worship (faithful following) from teaching and practice of His plan. What then should be any worship service? What must be every worship service, if it is not in vain?

Lk. 18:8 - The word worship is not found here, but the concept of worship is very much the subject. Even though the Lord is ready to defend, protect and avenge speedily, when the Son of man comes, will He indeed find the Faith or this Faith on earth? Shouldn't each one living today look in a full length mirror and evaluate "worship"?

Jhn. 4:23-24 - A time will come, indeed is already here, when the true worshippers (those as faithful to their Master as is the dog which comes to lick his master's hand) will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is seeking just such people as these to be His worshippers. (Apparently he was not finding very many.) God is Spirit and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth. What is truth? That was Pilate's question to Him who had proclaimed, "I am the Truth!". His name is "The Word of God." (Rev. 19:13) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was God. (Jhn. 1:1) Worship in truth is faithfully learning and practicing the plan which is the Word of God. The thanks, praise, lifting of hands, and rejoicing follow suit.

What is worship in spirit? It is not at all an exercise in the preferences and desires of a soul not yet wholly committed within the plan of God! The function of the spirit was intended to be that of making right decisions, guided by Truth and not by what is thought might be more enjoyable and comfortable. Worship in spirit is precisely tied in with the Spirit of God so it must exclusively encompass learning and practicing God's plan for man's well-being. Does this statement of Jesus Christ do anything to your worship pattern? If it is confirmed, rejoice; if not, better plan an early about face!

Jhn. 17:4 - I have glorified You (enhanced Your reputation and magnificance - also translated worshipped elsewhere) down here on the land by completing the work that You gave Me to do. This embraced Jesus Christ's total worship of His Father; and Jesus said He demonstrated the way in which every follower of His should live.

Many other passages could well be brought into the study, but all would present the same lesson. We are here to learn and practice to become skillful in performing the lessons the Lord has put before all men on earth. There is no other way to truly worship Him. When we understand and then experience what the plan produces, the Faith and faithfulness increase. He sees to that. But if we employ man-developed worship patterns, too late we learn it has been in vain. Additional and timely reading: WORSHIP OR HYPOCRISY, BE TAUGHT OR GET TAUT, SEDUCTION INTO WORSHIP, and BALANCE IN WORSHIP.

If a Christian comments about how uplifting the "worship" is in his church or prayer group, but also tells about poor quality of the teaching, will that now trigger any definite conclusion? Shouldn't it? Worship is not fulfilled through saying or singing nice things, even glorious things. Nor is worship fulfilled by warmth of heart and emotional expressions. Fulfillment of worship necessitates much more, if it is to be worship in spirit and in truth. The pith of right worship is doing justly, loving mercy and walking humbly with God. True worship is the hearing of (conformance to) the Father's counsel, His plan for bringing up His children. That eliminates much, or most, or sometimes all of what people do in Church as they "worship". (Micah 6:8-9)

Is it time to worry about spiritual "AIDS?"

It is always the right time to shift from Church jargon into Truth; it is also good to ask, "Is there time to delay any longer?" The topics studied do not come even close to exhausting the list of basic words which have been warped into a church jargon and accepted by all humanity (very few exceptions).

But if real interest in Truth has been stirred, anyone can rapidly progress through the list with but his Bible (no modern "translations" please) and a library copy of Strong's Concordance.

I know the thoughts and plans I have for you, says the Lord, thoughts and plans for well-being and not for harm, to give you hope in your final outcome. ... When you search for Me (Truth) with all your heart desire, I (Truth) will be found by you, says the Lord, and I (Truth) will release you from captivity (to harmful habits) and gather you (into Truth). (Jer. 29:11-14, Jhn. 8:31-32)

That should become the focus of your worship!

Come, My people, enter your chambers and shut your doors behind you. Hide yourselves for a little while, until the menace is past. For behold, the Lord is coming forth out of His place to visit the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity. ... In that day, with His sharp and strong Sword (unperverted Word), He will check out Leviathan, the serpent with power and sting, Leviathan, the beguiling, deceiving serpent; He will slay the dragon that is in the sea. (Isa. 26:20 - 27:1)

Come out of confused, perverted truth and its destruction; close your doors to it. Those who do will rejoice, having moved into the inspiring chambers of whole Truth. It is reliance upon whole Truth, once discovered, understood and experienced, that times the Lord's slaying of the whole beguiling desire-nature in the sea of human souls.

Only the finger of God (His whole Truth in use) can utterly reverse the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome which opens one to the full span of satanic killer "infections!" (Ex. 8:19)

C. Gordon Wolcott

The substance of truth revealed by Christ's Spirit in both Testaments is the spirit of all prophecy. That spoken by His Spirit carries the light of prophecy. (Rev. 19:10, 1Pet. 1:11) Therefore, today be on guard against the "leaven", the distortions by the Pharisees (popularly recognized and accepted religious men) which is hypocrisy.

ARE YOU BEING SAVED

Once you decide to look for it, you find our Bible speaks of initial salvation (more properly, preservation), and then more of it to follow. Do you understand how a dedicated, already saved Christian lives so he can continue adding to his saving? Do you know he needs to do so?

In the Old Testament times, all who looked to the Lord in a worthy manner and sacrificed their lambs on His Altar experienced His preservation (saving) of their souls.

Surely, Jesus did not leave the glory of His heaven to suffer agony as a human, and die, without adding something of tremendous value to the Old Testament Contract!

Do you recall noting in many portions of Scripture that "saving" has three tenses - initial, progressive and final? Are you aware your Bible also relates that although unregenerate man's soul and body can and do die, his spirit never has or ever will? Do you know our Savior has provided a practical way in which on-going preservation (salvation) can be built into both soul and body?

Are you becoming increasingly aware of a vital need for the on-going preservation from Christ in a terrorist-oriented world?

How can you know when you are being saved - once having been? After study of this easily understood 22 page booklet, you will know more of what is in your Bible than most of your contemporaries!

Another of the Treasures New and Old
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Brotherhood of Jesus